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suspicion of the presence of either contagious or infectious disease was in evidence; the few patients in the two hospitals were chronic medical or surgical cases. * * *

Respectfully, yours,

WM. H. CARSON, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CUBA.

Quarantine surveillance of persons and baggage leaving Cuban ports for the United States.

[Weekly report from Surgeon H. R. Carter.]

The following weekly report has been received from Surgeon H. R. Carter, who was detailed on January 28, 1899, to make inspections and establish quarantine stations in the Island of Cuba, exclusive of the province of Santiago, in which latter province Passed Assistant Surgeon M. J. Rosenau was detailed for like duty.

HAVANA, CUBA, *May 1, 1899.*

SIR: In compliance with Bureau letter (P. M. C.) of the 19th instant, I have the honor to submit the following report of the situation here for the past week:

Havana.

The disinfection of vessels bound for southern ports is continued here, and we are handling a considerable number—34 to May 1. I can say that this work is carefully done, indeed I believe that as much pains is taken as at any quarantine station I have ever seen, or indeed more. Special care is taken to prevent the possibility of reinfection. Such vessels as can not well be handled here are advised to go via Tortugas, if going into the Gulf, disinfecting there and, if they wish, leaving for destination without detention with a certificate of disinfection, so as to save as much of the delay in quarantine as possible. All things considered, I count the *Protector* as the most complete and convenient disinfecting plant I have ever seen, and I have seen every one between New York and Galveston.

The work on baggage going to northern ports is progressing. The plan under which we work is briefly this. All passengers come to this office for an inspection card as a prerequisite for buying a ticket, and without which they are stopped at the gangway of the vessel. These cards are viséed and the passenger reinspected within twenty-four hours of leaving. When the cards are issued the ultimate destination of the passenger is determined in the case of soldiers; this is usually very easy and very certain. The cards are then marked. The baggage is differentiated, first, by destination, all going (ultimately) south being disinfected. It is also differentiated by origin; all from a locality considered to be infected being disinfected independent of its destination. Finally it is differentiated by its nature; bedding, old and soiled fabrics, and household goods, and anything else of which the inspector is doubtful, independent of its destination or origin, is either rejected or disinfected, the former for the household goods and generally the latter for dirty clothing, etc. We have an acting assistant surgeon and an

assistant on the gangway of the vessel from the time she is ready to receive passengers to the time of sailing to examine the cards, labels, unlabeled baggage, etc. The plan is, I think, sufficient and it is practicable. It is a big task, however, just now and not an easy one; like everything else in quarantine work its success depends on the closeness of the supervision of its details. Several systems of checks, which it would take too long to give, are in use, and more will be applied as their applicability becomes apparent. In the meantime a close inspection by the New York quarantine authorities is of the greatest value to us to enforce our own work. At the beginning, on the first vessel (*City of Washington*), a number of pieces of baggage escaped disinfection here, being taken on in spite of our advice and offer of disinfection, and the best that could be done was to so notify the New York quarantine, and explain how these could be certainly identified by the inspection cards the passengers carried, *i. e.*, all passengers not holding cards marked "baggage passed" require disinfection of their baggage. The disinfection of this baggage is done by the *Protector*, a lighter going out to her each morning with the baggage leaving that day. This is disinfected, put under seal, and carried directly by the same lighter to the steamer.

Matanzas.

It is of great advantage to us here that the same work on baggage is done at Matanzas by Passed Assistant Surgeon Guiteras, U. S. M. H. S., much of which comes this way. The packages are put under seal, and his labels on all that reach us with seal unbroken are honored. The labels of course are stamped and signed.

Cienfuegos.

I have just returned from Cienfuegos where the same system and methods of inspection and disinfection of baggage were instituted under Assistant Surgeon Grubbs, U. S. M. H. S. The problem there is much simpler on account of the lesser amount of passenger traffic, which still is considerable. The steam chamber recently instituted there was carefully gone over, and such alterations as seemed advisable recommended. It is a good little chamber, indeed an excellent one, but will be better with a steam exhaust. He is prepared to disinfect vessels at Cienfuegos, and can do thorough work but not quickly, this plant being designed rather for this baggage work than for vessels leaving Cienfuegos. Disinfection at this place, however, is only applicable for steamers or for schooners which call at Tortugas (about three days off) for inspection. A certain amount can and will be done here; more at Matanzas.

Cardenas.

As is known to the Bureau, I have opened Cardenas as a subport and placed a quarantine physician there. He was under instructions here and at Matanzas for about ten days prior to assuming his functions there. No disinfection of vessels for American ports will be done there; all entering the Gulf can stop at Tortugas for disinfection and save time. As soon as my work will allow me (I have been giving personal attention to the disinfection) I purpose to visit a second time the ports on the north coast.

Respectfully, yours,

H. R. CARTER,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Map with curve showing weekly death rate at Cienfuegos.

